

Amendments to the Claims:

Please AMEND the claims as indicated in the listing of claims below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the Pending Application. The claims are marked to indicate the changes made with deletions indicated by strikethroughs and additions indicated by underlining.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A drive apparatus for a ~~wheelchair ramp having at least one movable ramp section~~, the apparatus comprising:

a linear actuator including a fixed end and a free end;
a gear rack coupled with the free end;
a complimentary gear ~~for cooperating~~ configured to cooperate with the gear rack; and
~~a pivotal linkage coupled at one end with the gear and at an opposing end with a the~~
~~ramp section, and configured to affect deployment and stowage of the linkage pivoting for~~
~~deploying and stowing the ramp.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the linear actuator comprises a hydraulic cylinder including a body and a rod ~~movable in and out from the body~~.

Claim 3 (Original): The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the fixed end comprises the body and the free end comprises the rod.

Claim 4 (Original): The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the fixed end comprises the rod and the free end comprises the body.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the linear actuator comprises an ~~electric~~ electrical actuator.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the gear rack comprises an elongate portion having a plurality of ~~gear~~ teeth ~~for configured to mating mate~~ with the complimentary gear.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the ~~gear rack is generally L-shaped and the~~ elongate portion is generally parallel with ~~and spaced away from~~ the actuator.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the gear teeth are disposed on a bottom side of the elongate side.

Claim 9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a shaft, wherein the gear and ~~a first end of~~ the linkage are coupled ~~to~~ with the shaft so that the linkage is configured to pivot pivots about the shaft relative in response to the linear movement of the free end of by the actuator.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the shaft is fixed ~~such~~ so that the gear and linkage are configured to rotate in concert about ~~on~~ the shaft.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the shaft is ~~free~~ configured to rotate in concert with the gear and linkage.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the linkage comprises a ~~single~~ rigid link.

Claim 14 (Original): The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the rigid link comprises a curvilinear shape.

Claim 15 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the linkage comprises two or more rigid links coupled together.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A ~~vehicle wheelchair~~ ramp system comprising:
a linear actuator;
an enclosure recessed into ~~a portion of a floor of the vehicle, the enclosure and~~ housing the ~~entire~~ actuator;
a ramp ~~section~~ pivotally coupled ~~to~~ with the enclosure; and
~~a linkage coupling the actuator to~~ with the ramp section, ~~the linkage and configured to convert~~ converting a linear force from the actuator to a rotational force configured to stow and deploy for stowing and deploying the ramp.

Claim 17 (Original): The system of claim 16 wherein the linear actuator comprises a cylinder in fluid communication with a power unit.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 16 wherein the linear actuator comprises an ~~electric~~ electrical actuator.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 16 wherein the linkage comprises at least two rigid links.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A drive apparatus for a mobility ~~an~~ access device having a ramp, the apparatus comprising:

a linear actuator including a fixed end and a free end;
a gear rack coupled with the free end;
a complimentary gear ~~for cooperating~~ configured to cooperate with the gear rack; and
a linkage coupled ~~at one end~~ with the gear and ~~at an opposing end with a~~ the movable portion ~~ramp of the mobility access device, the linkage effecting and configured to affect~~ reversible movement of the movable portion ramp.

Claims 21-34 (Cancelled).